



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : C. Hudson Hendren III                      Art Unit : 2151  
Serial No. : 10/045,159                                      Examiner : Khanh Dinh  
Filed : January 15, 2002  
Title : PROVIDING A NETWORK COMMUNICATION STATUS DESCRIPTION  
          BASED ON USER CHARACTERISTICS

**Mail Stop Amendment**  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

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REPLY TO ACTION OF MAY 19, 2004

In reply to the Office Action of May 19, 2004, Applicant submits the following remarks.

Claims 24-54 are pending, with claims 24, 35 and 38 being independent. Independent claims 24, 35, and 38 are generally directed to providing information or a message "based on a user's technical proficiency," as recited in the preamble of claims 24, 35 and 38. This is carried out in part by "receiving data related to a user's technical proficiency," as recited in the body of independent claims 24 or 38, or by "a data receiver arranged and structured so as to receive data related to a user's technical proficiency," as recited in the body of independent claim 35.

Independent claim 24 further recites "*selecting* a message from a plurality of messages *based upon* the received data related to the user's technical proficiency." Similarly, claims 35 and 38 further recite that "the plurality of messages include a *first message* that corresponds to a *first level* of technical proficiency and a *second message* that corresponds to a *second level* of technical proficiency."

The claims have been rejected as being unpatentable over Schneider, U.S. Patent 6,105,027, in view of Blaszcak, U.S. Patent 6,615,255. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection because neither Schneider, Blaszcak, nor any proper combination of the two describes or suggests using data related to a user's technical proficiency in the manner recited in the claims.

Recognizing that Schneider does not disclose the use of data related to a level of technical proficiency, the Examiner relies on Blaszcak as doing so. However, Blaszcak does not do so. Instead, Blaszcak describes a system that enables a user to administer a remote

system from a home system. Because of the technical complexity of this administration, Blaszcak describes use of a "generic shell to show only valid options for the remote system, thereby preventing the user from misconfiguring the system" (col. 2, lines 5-7). This allows the user "to access and configure the remote system without requiring the user to know the specific features and software that are on the remote system" (col. 3, lines 2-4). Thus, Blaszcak's system attempts to alleviate administration of remote systems for all users, regardless of the technical proficiency of a particular user. To this end, the same user interface is provided to all users. Blaszcak nowhere describes or suggests providing interfaces that vary according to a user's technical proficiency, or otherwise making use of data related to a user's technical proficiency. As such, any proper combination of Schneider and Blaszcak also would fail to do so.

The action indicates that Blaszcak describes providing a list of configuration objects according to users' proficiency in the abstract; Figures 1 and 3; col. 1 lines 36-60; col. 3, line 33 to col. 4, line 60; and col. 5, lines 10-46. This simply is not the case. Instead, these sections of Blaszcak describe having the remote system provide configuration logic objects to the home system to allow the user to modify the configuration of the remote system without the risk of selecting an invalid configuration. User proficiency is in no way taken into account during this process.

For the reasons presented above, the rejections of claims 24, 35 and 38, and their dependent claims, should be withdrawn. Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

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Respectfully submitted,

Date: 7/19/04

  
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